

Serial No. 09/875,198
Amend. Dated June 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2004

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Spear for the courtesy of extending a personal interview with the Applicant's representatives on April 27, 2004, during which agreement was reached regarding the pending claims. Applicant would also like to thank Examiner Spear for the telephone conference with the Applicant's representatives held on May 5, 2004.

The current listing of claims reflects the agreements reached between the Examiner and the Applicant's representatives during the interview. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 13, 17-19, 21-22, 27-31 and 35 will be pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the January 14, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13, 17-19, 21-26 and 30-34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,944,939, issued to Moore. In accordance with the discussions during the interview, and the Examiner's helpful suggestions, claims 13, 27, 30 and 31 have been amended, and claims 23-26 and 32-34 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that the previously rejected claims are now in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, in the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claim 20, although dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Serial No. 09/875,198
Amend. Dated June 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2004

Accordingly, claim 20 has been canceled and rewritten in independent form as claim 35.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claim is now in condition for allowance.

In addition, claims 18, 22 and 29 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/875,198
Amend. Dated June 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2004

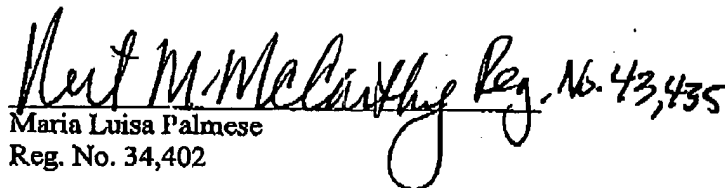
CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicant believes that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such favorable action. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below if he believes that a discussion would help advance the progress of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 14, 2004


Maria Luisa Palmese
Reg. No. 34,402

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200